

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 have been examined. Claims 1 and 5-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Also the Examiner has indicated that claims 2-4 and 10 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. New claims 11-15 have been added.

I. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,371,601 to Katakura (“Katakura”)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 5-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being unpatentable over Katakura.

This rejection is overcome by the amendment to claim 1 incorporating the allowable subject matter of claim 2. Thus, Applicant submits that claims 1-14, each depending from claim 1 are allowable.

II. Newly Added Claim 15

Applicants submit that newly added claim 15 is patentable over the applied references. For example, none of the references suggest that each liquid ejection unit comprises at least one nozzle plate with a plurality of nozzles.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln No. 10/750,212

Atty Dkt No. Q79256

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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